

REMARKS**Claim Identifiers**

The claim identifiers for claims 1-3 and 9-11 have been corrected.

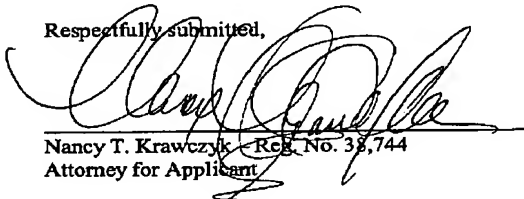
35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 3-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide the proper antecedent basis for the intermediate ribbed structure.

Applicant awaits indications of allowability of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy T. Krawczyk - REG. No. 38,744
Attorney for Applicant

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Department 823
1144 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44316-0001
Telephone: (330) 796-6366
Facsimile: (330) 796-9018